

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 301210Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3260
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 4808

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 4808 VICE 4608)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, NL, IR
SUBJECT: AFTERMATH OF STUDENT OCCUPATION IN IRANIAN EMBASSY

REF: THE HAGUE 4708

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A COMPENDIUM OF DEVELOPMENTS
REGARDING THE NINE STUDENTS WHO OCCUPIED THE IRANIAN
EMBASSY BRIEFLY ON AUGUST 23. AFTER THEIR ARREST THE
STUDENTS WENT ON A HUNGER STRIKE, WHICH IS STILL
CONTINUING. THEY DEMAND THAT THEY BE PERMITTED TO SPEAK
TO JOURNALISTS AND THAT THEY BE HELD TOGETHER RATHER
THAN SEPARATELY IN PRISON. SOME 25 TO 30 OTHER
IRANIANS AND DUTCH SYMPATHIZERS HAVE JOINED THE
HUNGER STRIKE; THEY ALSO HELD A BRIEF DEMONSTRATION
OUTSIDE PARLIAMENT ON AUGUST 25 IN SUPPORT OF THE STUDENTS.
ACCESS TO JOURNALISTS IS DEMANDED, ACCORDING TO THE
ATTORNEY ACTING FOR THE GROUP (THE SAME INDIVIDUAL WHO
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REPRESENTED PHILIP AGEE AND THE ILLEGAL MOROCCAN WORKERS),
IN ORDER TO PUBLICIZE THE PROOF THEY CLAIM TO HAVE FOUND
IN THE EMBASSY'S FILES OF COOPERATION BETWEEN SAVAK AND
DUTCH INTERNAL SECURITY AUTHORITIES AND A LIST OF DUTCH
CITIZENS WHO ARE KNOWN TO BE CRITICS OF THE SHAH.

2. THE STUDENTS HAVE NOW BEEN CHARGED WITH DISTURBING THE

PEACE AND DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY. THEIR TRIAL IS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 5 AND THEY WILL BE HELD IN CUSTODY UNTIL THE TRIAL. THE POLICE HAVE CORRECTED ONE ASPECT OF THEIR PREVIOUS REPORT TO US: THERE WAS NO GUARD OR WATCHMAN ON DUTY AND ACCESS TO THE CHANCERY WAS GAINED BY WALKING INTO THE BUILDING ONE BY ONE. A POLICE CAR PATROLLED THE AREA FOUR TIMES HOURLY. THE STUDENTS AND THEIR SYMPATHIZERS HAVE CLAIMED THEY WERE TRICKED BY THE POLICE SUPERINTENDENT REGARDING THEIR RETENTION OF DOCUMENTS FROM THE EMBASSY'S FILES AND THAT HIS PROMISE THAT THEY COULD RETAIN THESE DOCUMENTS WAS A SUBTERFUGE TO GET THEM TO SURRENDER. THE SUPERINTENDENT CLAIMS THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW PROVISIONS REGARDING THE INVOLABILITY OF EMBASSY RECORDS AND TOOK THE ACTION TO REGAIN THE DOCUMENTS FROM THE STUDENTS WHEN HE WAS INSTRUCTED TO DO SO BY THE MFA.

3. WE ASKED THE MFA WHAT THE REACTION HAD BEEN FROM TEHRAN AND WHETHER THERE WAS ANY CONCERN THAT THE SHAH MIGHT REACT AGAINST THE DUTCH HANDLING OF THE CASE BY SOME COMMERCIAL OR DIPLOMATIC ACTION SUCH AS THE CANCELLATION OF THE ORDER FOR THE FRIGATES. THE MFA (VAN ARKEL, HEAD OF THE MIDDLE EAST SECTION) SAID THE AFFAIR HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN TEHRAN BY AMBASSADOR CAMPAGNE AND THE VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE AMBASSADOR REPORTED THAT THE CONVERSATION WAS "PLEASANT-" AND THE ONLY COMPLAINT WAS THAT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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POLICE HAD REACTED TOO SLOWLY. VAN ARKEL SAID THE DUTCH HAVE NO INDICATION THAT IRAN WOULD RETALIATE IN ANY WAY AGAINST DUTCH INTERESTS. (WE HAVE REQUESTED AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE IRANIAN CHARGE BUT HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT HE IS UNAVAILABLE FOR 10 DAYS.)

4. OTHER THAN THE FEW SYMPATHIZERS MENTIONED ABOVE, THE STUDENTS APPEAR TO HAVE INCITED LITTLE SUPPORT FOR THEIR CAUSE. THE INCIDENT HAS ALMOST DROPPED FROM PUBLIC ATTENTION AND HAS ELICITED NO EDITORIAL COMMENT OR REACTION.
JOSEPH

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NNN

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